November 3, 1975

5230

Mr. C. W. Ogle, Superintendent
Natchez Trace Parkway
Rural Route,1, NT-143
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

Dear Mr. Ogle:

On September 24-26, 1975, Loyd Drake and Paul Peacher of the Forest Insect and Disease Management Group, conducted a survey (aerial and ground) of insect and disease conditions on the Natchez Trace Parkway from Natchez to Tupelo, Mississippi.

Thirty-seven spots of dead or dying pines containing 43 trees (35 singles, 2 multiples) were detected during the aerial phase of the survey. A ground examination of 15 of the spots showed that all mortality was caused by lightning strikes followed by attack by pine engraver beetles, Ips spp., and black turpentine beetles, Dendroctonus terebrans, Oliv. No southern pine beetle or other insect activity, with the exception of a light population of fall webworm, Hyphantria cunea Drury, was observed.

Tree diseases observed included annosus root rot, Fomes annosus, killing a limited number of cedar trees, and needlecast, Hypoderma lethale, affecting scattered pines along this right-of-way.

The southern pine beetle problem that has existed on the Trace for several years has apparently subsided. Other bark beetle activity is normal for this time of year. However, due to the high value of the trees along this scenic drive, the following procedures are recommended for control:

1. Spray standing trees infested with the black turpentine beetle with one percent lindane in #2 fuel oil. Trees should be sprayed to run off from the base to a point 12 inches above the highest pitch tube. If trees are dying, they should be cut and sprayed or salvaged.

2. Trees infested with Ips engraver beetles should be cut and sprayed to run off with 0.5 percent lindane in #2 fuel oil. Trees should be felled, limbed and bucked one at a time, sprayed on the topside, rolled, and sprayed on the under side.

3. Trees from which the beetles have emerged should not be sprayed, as this could kill remaining populations of beneficial insects.

4. Trees infested with fall webworm should be sprayed with Bacillus thuringiensis diluted and applied according to label instructions.

No control is recommended for the root rot and needle cast diseases at this time.

Care should be taken when mowing around trees along the right-of-way. Mowing equipment often causes wounds which could predispose the trees to insect attack and disease infection.

If you have questions regarding this survey, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Loyd E. Drake

MELVYN J. WEISS
Acting Field Representative, Alexandria
Forest Insect and Disease Management Group

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